

In the Claims:

1-35 cancelled.

~~36~~¹ (Previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a RANKL polypeptide that binds RANK, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 294 of SEQ ID NO:11.

37. Cancelled

~~38~~⁹ (Previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a RANKL polypeptide that binds RANK, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 48 to 290 of SEQ ID NO:11.

39. (Cancelled)

~~40~~² (Previously added) The isolated DNA molecule of Claim ~~36~~¹, wherein said DNA molecule comprises nucleotides 3 to 884 of SEQ ID NO:10.

41. (Cancelled)

~~42~~¹⁰ (Previously added) The isolated DNA molecule of Claim ~~38~~⁹, wherein said DNA molecule comprises nucleotides 144 to 872 of SEQ ID NO:10.

43. (Cancelled)

~~44~~⁶ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~36~~¹.

45. (cancelled)

~~46~~¹⁴ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~38~~⁹.

47. (Cancelled)

~~48~~³ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~40~~².

49. (Cancelled)

~~50~~¹¹ (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim ~~42~~¹⁰.

51. (Cancelled)
- ~~52~~⁷ (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim ~~44~~⁶
53. (Cancelled)
- ~~54~~¹⁵ (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim ~~46~~¹⁴
55. (Cancelled)
- ~~56~~⁴ (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim ~~48~~³
57. (Cancelled)
- ~~58~~¹² (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim ~~50~~¹¹
59. (Cancelled)
- ~~60~~⁸ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim ~~52~~⁷ under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.
61. (Cancelled)
- ~~62~~¹⁶ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim ~~54~~¹⁵ under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.
63. (Cancelled)
- ~~64~~⁵ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim ~~56~~⁴ under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.
65. (Cancelled)
- ~~66~~¹³ (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim ~~58~~¹² under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

67. (Cancelled)

~~68~~¹⁷ (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid encoding a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the RANKL of SEQ ID NO:11; and
- b) a fusion protein comprising the RANKL of SEQ ID NO:11,

wherein said RANKL polypeptide is from a mammal.

~~69~~¹⁸ (Previously added) A cell comprising said recombinant nucleic acid of claim ~~68~~¹⁷.

~~70~~¹⁹ (Previously added) The cell of claim ~~69~~¹⁸, wherein said cell is:

- a) a prokaryotic cell;
- b) a eukaryotic cell;
- c) a bacterial cell;
- d) a yeast cell;
- e) an insect cell;
- f) a mammalian cell;
- g) a mouse cell; or
- h) a human cell.

~~71~~²¹ (Previously added) A kit comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~68~~¹⁷.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Cancelled)

~~75~~²² (Previously added) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim ~~68~~¹⁷, wherein said RANKL polypeptide is a RANKL immunogen.

~~76~~²⁶ (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim ~~68~~¹⁷, which exhibits 100% identity over the protein coding portion of a DNA encoding said RANKL sequence.

~~77~~²⁸ (Previously added) A vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim ~~68~~¹⁷ and;

- a) transcriptional regulatory sequences operably linked to said RANKL coding sequence; or
- b) an origin of replication.

~~17~~ ~~78~~ ³¹ (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim ~~68~~, wherein said nucleic acid:

- a) is from a natural source;
- b) comprises a detectable label;
- c) comprises synthetic nucleotide sequence; or
- d) comprises a full length coding sequence.

79. (Cancelled)

~~80~~ ²³ (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~75~~ ²².

~~81~~ ²⁷ (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~76~~ ²⁶.

~~82~~ ²⁹ (Previously added) A cell comprising said vector of claim ~~77~~ ²⁸.

~~83~~ ³² (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim ~~78~~ ³¹.

~~84~~ ³³ (Previously added) A kit comprising a nucleic acid of claim ~~78~~ ³¹.

85. (Cancelled)

~~86~~ ²⁰ (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim ~~69~~ ¹⁸ in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

~~87~~ ²⁴ (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim ~~80~~ ²³ in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

~~88~~ ³⁰ (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim ~~82~~ ²⁹ in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

~~89~~ ²⁵ (Previously amended) A method of making a double-stranded nucleic acid comprising contacting said nucleic acid of claim ~~75~~ ²² with a complementary nucleic acid under selective hybridization conditions at least as stringent as the conditions of hybridizing at 50°C in 5 x SSC, thereby forming said double-stranded nucleic acid.

~~90~~ ³⁴ (Previously added) A method of making a nucleic acid of claim ~~68~~ ¹⁷, comprising amplifying said nucleic acid using PCR amplification methods.